

Role of Commercial Banks on Financial Assistance towards EWSHG- A study on Some Selected Banks

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Abstract:

There has been a growing appreciation of the fact that sustainable growth and financial stability can only be achieved through greater Financial Inclusion. It has the ability to generate positive externalities. It leads to increase in savings, investment and thereby, spurs the processes of economic growth. It also creates avenues of formal credit to the unbanked population who are otherwise dependent on informal channels of credit like family, friends and moneylenders. In 1992, NABARD has pioneered the SHG-bank linkage model which positions the SHGs as financial intermediaries to enable the flow of bank loans to poor members without physical collateral which has now become the largest as well as fastest growing microfinance programme in the world and also an avenue of women empowerment as most of the SHGs are run by the women exclusively. The present paper makes an attempt to observe the role of some selected commercial banks on financial assistance towards EWSHG during the study period. The study reveals that public sector banks are playing major role towards loan disbursement to these groups and the improved recovery mechanism has reduced the rate of gross NPA on outstanding loan during the study period.

Keywords: Financial inclusion, economic growth, NABARD, EWSHG, Gross NPA

INTRODUCTION:

Franklin D. Roosevelt, the famous political personnel and 32nd President of United States of America said, "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little." In true sense he pointed towards inclusive growth which is very much relevant in today's world as well as in our country. Eradication of poverty and development of the rural people has been given top priority in our country in different policy making since independence.

To accelerate the economic growth and to make it sustainable, it is required that the benefit should trickle down to the poor and exploited section of the society and also there should be an active participation from all sections in the growth process. Despite the country's spectacular GDP growth rate, poverty in India is still pervasive; especially in rural areas where more than 65% of India's total population live.

India is one of the fastest growing economies in the world but its wealth is hardly reallocated across the population. Uneven and inequitable growth has resulted in the exclusion of a large number of people from the formal sources of financial services which is identified as a key cause of poverty, together with illiteracy. According to the World Bank's Global Financial Inclusion Database or Global Findex Report (2017), about 190 million adults in India do not have a bank account, making India the world's second largest nation in terms of unbanked population after China. Sustainable growth and development are not possible unless all the segments of the economy are included. Financial Inclusion is one of the most significant avenues to achieve inclusive growth and development of economy.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) had introduced Self-Help Group (SHG) Bank Linkage Programme in 1992 aiming at improving access of the weaker and other sections of the society to formal financial institutions. This provides collective social collateral for banks to provide credit to the rural people. Moreover, there is collective allocation of funds to meet emergent credit needs of the SHG members at a nominal rate of interest. This programme has enabled the banks to assist in meeting the credit needs of very poor people without sacrificing their funds and has helped the rural women in particular to empower themselves both economically and financially.

At present, this programme is recognised as the largest as well as fastest growing microfinance programme in the world. As per the latest data available, more than 12.40 crore households have been linked through 1.02 crore SHGs with savings account of different financial agencies like Commercial Banks, Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). Total amount invested in savings account is more than Rs 26152 crore and total amount of loan disbursed to them by different agencies is more than Rs 77659 crore as on 31st March' 2020. The SHGs are one of the means of women empowerment also as more than 85% SHGs are run by women exclusively.

In this paper, an attempt has been made to highlight the role of some selected public sector and private sector commercial banks on financial assistance towards Exclusive Women Self- Help Groups (EWSHG) during the study period.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Uma. H.R. and Rupa. K.N (2013), in their paper entitled 'The Role of SHGS in Financial Inclusion. A Case Study', found that there is an increase in the credit availed by the members of the SHGs. They also observed that NGOs and Bankers actively participated in SHGs activities and encourage SHGs members to get some training in animal husbandry, sheep and goat rearing, poultry, tailoring etc. The generalized result is that there is a significant increase in income generating activities of members of SHGs through credit availed.

Raihanath. M.P. and Dr. K.B. Pavithran (2014), in their paper entitled 'Role of Commercial Banks in the Financial Inclusion Programme', concluded that for the success of the financial inclusion initiative what is important is to provide banking services at an affordable cost to the disadvantaged and low-income group. Commercial banks have to perform a vital role in this regard. However, the road towards 100% financial inclusion is yet to complete. Important areas of financial inclusion performed by commercial banks are: financial literacy, credit counselling, BC/BF model, KYC norms, KCC/GCC, No-frill accounts, branch expansion, Mobile banking and other measures such as micro insurance, micro- credit etc.

A. Birla (2016) in her paper entitled 'Role of Commercial Banks in Financial Inclusion: A Study in Respect to Indian Economy', found that the initiatives taken by government of India have mixed impact on Indian economy as the performance is unsatisfactory on some financial parameters. The position of India at Quality-of-Life Index, Social Progress Index, where to be born Index is among average performing countries. She opined that it should take into consideration by government to bring the performance on track.

M. Savyanavar and Dr. P. Trivedi (2016), in their paper entitled 'Performance Analysis of Commercial Banks Providing Microfinance in Rural Areas of Maharashtra', concluded that the private sector commercial banks providing microfinance in rural areas has high cost per borrower in comparison with public sector commercial banks providing microfinance in rural areas. Hence microfinance providers must target marginally poor clientele so as to capture economies of scale and cover costs which enhance efficiency and productivity commercial banks providing microfinance in rural areas. Also, Private and Public sector commercial banks providing microfinance should use new technologies and IT applications to reduce their operating costs and also make the operation more transparent and efficient.

D. Pillai (2017), in her paper entitled 'Mediating Role of Self-Help Groups for Stimulating Rural Financial Intermediation in India' opined that the financially excluded sections require products which are customized to meet their needs which are driven by their demographic characteristics. Heterogeneity in the demand of financial products can be identified at grass root level by SHG facilitating banks in designing tailor made products and services. Rural households need a range of financial services, such as maintenance of their earned income with assured return, credit to maintain their liquidity and short-term financial needs throughout the year, insurance for safeguarding their property and life and payments/remittances to their family. Financial awareness drives should also contemplate on creating of assets out of the small incomes for their economic and social upliftment.

R. Kumar and Dr. H. Singh (2018), in their paper entitled 'Role of Commercial Banks in Financing of Self-Help Groups in India', found that in India, various banking and non-banking institutions have been assigned the role to provide the required credit facilities to the rural poor from time to time. Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Co-operative Banks and other large lenders have played an important role in providing refinance facility to SHGs in India. Their study concluded that commercial banks play an important role for development and growth of SHGs in India. It was observed that private sector banks have highest growth in savings of SHGs, Loan outstanding of SHGs and loan disbursement of SHGs in India.

PRESENT SCENARIO:

As on 31st March' 2020, total number of SHGs linked with public sector commercial banks were 47.56 lakhs and total amount of savings credited by them were Rs 13502.04 crore out of which number of EWSHG were 39.31 lakhs (82.65% of total SHG) and amount of savings credited by them were Rs 11643.52 crore (86.24% of the total savings by SHGs). On the same date, public sector banks have disbursed total loan of Rs 39684.72 crore to 13.91 lakh EWSHG and total amount of outstanding loan was Rs 58903.59 crore. Total amount of gross NPA was Rs 2796.43 crore which was 4.75% of total outstanding loan.

On the other hand, on the same day, total number of SHGs linked with private sector commercial banks were 7.18 lakhs and total amount of savings credited by them were Rs 2160.14 crore out of which number of EWSHG were 6.70 lakhs (93.31% of total SHG) and amount of savings credited by them were Rs 2078.35 crore (96.21% of the total savings by SHGs). On the same date, private sector banks have disbursed total loan of Rs 5361.94 crore to 2.05 lakh EWSHG and total amount of outstanding loan was Rs 6394.16 crore. Total amount of gross NPA was Rs 177 crore which was 2.77% of total outstanding loan.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESENT PAPER:

The objectives of the present study are to observe:

- 1) The number of EWSHG linked with commercial banks under study and the trend of their savings
- 2) The amount of loan disbursed by the selected commercial banks towards EWSHG and trend of outstanding loan and
- 3) The trend of accumulation of gross NPA and its percentage on total outstanding loan during the assessment period.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The present paper is done on the basis of secondary data only. A report entitled 'Status of microfinance in India' is published by NABARD every year. The data relating to various financial aspects of EWSHG with commercial banks which have been used in this paper, collected mainly from the said report. The assessment period has been considered from 2014-15 to 2019-20.

As on 31st March, 2020 there were 18 public and 18 private sector banks operating in our country. The top 5 public sector banks which were linked with savings account of SHGs were SBI, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank, Central Bank and Canara Bank and top 5 banks which has accumulated savings from SHGs were SBI, Andhra Bank, Indian Bank, Bank of Baroda and Central Bank. Again, the top 5 private sector banks which were linked with savings account of SHGs were ICICI, IDBI, HDFC, Yes Bank and Dhana-Lakshmi Bank and top 5 banks which has accumulated savings from SHGs were HDFC, ICICI, IDBI, Federal Bank and Dhana- Lakshmi Bank. So, the said seven public sector banks namely SBI, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank, Central Bank, Canara Bank, Andhra Bank and Indian Bank and six private sector banks namely ICICI, IDBI, HDFC, Yes Bank, Dhana-Lakshmi Bank and Federal Bank have been considered for present study. Simple statistical tools have been used for analysis purpose.

In this context, one thing should be mentioned here. IDBI bank was established in 1964 as a subsidiary of RBI. It was transferred to Central Govt. in 1976. It became a public sector bank 1995 when the share of the Central Govt. in the bank came down to 75%. It continued its operation as a public sector bank till 2018-19. But on 21st January, 2019 Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) completed the 51% controlling stake of IDBI Bank and thus became the major shareholder of it. The RBI re-categorised IDBI Bank as a private sector bank following this move. For easiness of calculation and analysis, IDBI bank has been considered as a private sector bank for the entire assessment period in the present paper, though actually it was under public sector banks up to 2018- 19 financial year. It should be further mentioned that data relating to amount of gross NPA and its share on total outstanding loan towards EWSHG was not available for the financial year 2014-15 and 2015-16. No data of Federal bank and Dhana- Lakshmi bank for the financial years 2017-18 and 2018-19 respectively were available, too. So, the same could not be presented for analysis purpose.

PRESENTATION OF DATA AND ITS ANALYSIS:

Table 1:

Number of Total SHGs Linked with Savings Accounts of Commercial Banks under Study during the Assessment Period

Commercial Banks	31.03.2015	31.03.2016	31.03.2017	31.03.2018	31.03.2019	31.03.2020	Absolute Change	% Change
Public Sector Banks								
Andhra Bank	231368	238689	240463	233298	236762	255789	24421	10.56
Bank of Baroda	123013	118925	256476	222986	327670	480327	357314	290.47
Canara Bank	279939	157926	177708	223457	283221	318189	38250	13.66
Central Bank	77286	87405	198237	241582	285199	323295	246009	318.31
Indian Bank	346302	361217	380577	403295	429673	261305	-84997	-24.54
State Bank of India	1189459	905775	896056	1004797	1124105	1068931	-120528	-10.13
Union Bank	122333	280927	377087	136699	391946	454319	331986	271.38
Total	2369700	2150864	2526604	2466114	3078576	3162155	792455	33.44
All Total	3709812	3555186	3790080	3954427	4734089	4756172	1046360	28.21
%	63.88	60.50	66.66	62.36	65.03	66.49		
Private Sector Banks								
Dhana-Lakshmi Bank	0	11640	12041	12121		11518	11518	-
Federal Bank	15154	19862	1928		1525	19881	4727	31.19
HDFC Bank	143162	161412	167978	183681	208206	79110	-64052	-44.74
IDBI Bank	7949	14404	25582	31559	91516	92810	84861	1067.57
ICICI Bank	138122	199340	252696	306588	362811	424469	286347	207.31
Yes Bank	81211	130207	134359	78020	39685	36243	-44968	-55.37
Total	385598	536865	594584	611969	703743	664031	278433	72.21
All Total	426009	584925	654348	679285	742813	717661	291652	68.46
%	90.51	91.78	90.87	90.09	94.74	92.53		

(Data Source: Status of Microfinance in India 2014- 15 to 2019-20)

The above table represents the number of total SHGs linked with savings account of commercial banks under study. From the table it is found that number of SHGs linked with public sector commercial banks as a whole have been increased from 3709812 in March' 2015 to 4756172 in March' 2020, resulting an overall increment of 1046360 (28%) and during the same period, the number of SHGs linked with public sector banks under study have been increased from 2369700 to 3162155 resulting an overall increment of 792455 (33%). The public sector banks under study shares more than 60% of the total SHGs under all public sector banks throughout the study period. The table further reveals that highest increment in number of SHGs linked with public sector banks under study was observed in Bank of Baroda (357314, 290%) followed by Union bank (331986, 271%) and Central Bank (246009, 318%). Highest reduction in number of SHGs linked with public sector banks under study was observed in SBI (120528, 10%) followed by Indian Bank (84997, 25%).

Again, on the other hand, the number of SHGs linked with private sector commercial banks as a whole have been increased from 426009 in March' 2015 to 717661 in March' 2020, resulting an overall increment of 291652 (68%) and during the same period, the number of SHGs linked with private sector banks under study have been increased from 385598 to 664031 resulting an overall

increment of 278433 (72%). The private sector banks under study shares more than 90% of the total SHGs under all private sector banks throughout the study period. The table further reveals that highest increment in number of SHGs linked with private sector banks under study was observed in ICICI Bank (286347, 207%) followed by IDBI bank (84861, 1067%) and Dhana-Lakshmi Bank (11518). Highest reduction in number of SHGs linked with private sector banks under study was observed in HDFC Bank (64052, 45%) followed by Yes Bank (44968, 55%).

Table 2:
Number of EWSHG Linked with Savings Accounts of Commercial Banks under Study and its share on Total SHGs

	31.03.2015		31.03.2016		31.03.2017		31.03.2018		31.03.2019		31.03.2020		Change of EWSHG	
	EW SHG	% of Total SHG	EW SHG	% of Total SHG	EW SHG	% of Total SHG	EW SHG	% of Total SHG	EW SHG	% of Total SHG	EW SHG	% of Total SHG	Absolute	%
Public Sector Banks														
Andhra Bank	230820	99.76	238143	99.77	239387	99.55	232099	99.49	235531	99.48	254267	99.40	23447	10.16
Bank of Baroda	91269	74.19	76545	64.36	215049	83.85	188455	84.51	290893	88.78	391797	81.57	300528	329.28
Canara Bank	225989	80.73	137286	86.93	161419	90.83	203970	91.28	258084	91.12	291657	91.66	65668	29.06
Central Bank	42499	54.99	27608	31.59	28755	14.51	29971	12.41	18693	6.55	19039	5.89	-23460	-55.20
Indian Bank	339376	98.00	353995	98.00	372968	98.00	395234	98.00	421081	98.00	258683	99.00	-80693	-23.78
State Bank of India	1084777	91.20	821364	90.68	786341	87.76	892951	88.87	996951	88.69	951019	88.97	-133758	-12.33
Union Bank	115674	94.56	276396	98.39	370026	98.13	130524	95.48	336867	85.95	376344	82.84	260670	225.35
Total	2130404	89.90	1931337	89.79	2173945	86.04	2073204	84.07	2558100	83.09	2542806	80.41	412402	19.36
All Total	3194113	86.10	3011230	84.70	3162378	83.44	3188987	80.64	3833844	80.98	3930862	82.65	736749	23.07
%	66.70		64.14		68.74		65.01		66.72		64.69			
Private Sector Banks														
Dhana-Lakshmi Bank	0		6721	57.74	11852	98.43	12039	99.32	-	-	11456	99.46	11456	-
Federal Bank	1416	9.34	3084	15.53	1048	54.36			356	23.34	274	1.38	-1142	-80.65
HDFC Bank	143162	100.00	161412	100.00	167978	100.00	183681	100.00	208206	100.00	79110	100.00	-64052	-44.74
IDBI Bank	5230	65.79	11915	82.72	21194	82.85	26153	82.87	82207	89.83	79911	86.10	74681	1427.93
ICICI Bank	138122	100.00	199340	100.00	252696	100.00	306588	100.00	362811	100.00	424469	100.00	286347	207.31
Yes Bank	81211	100.00	130207	100.00	134359	100.00	78020	100.00	39685	100.00	36243	100.00	-44968	-55.37
Total	369141	95.73	512679	95.49	589127	99.08	606481	99.10	693265	98.51	631463	95.10	262322	71.06
All Total	407848	95.74	557748	95.35	642573	98.20	666404	98.10	723620	97.42	669995	93.36	262147	64.28
%	90.51		91.92		91.68		91.01		95.81		94.25			

(Data Source: Status of Microfinance in India 2014- 15 to 2019-20)

The above table represents the number of Exclusive Women SHGs (EWSHG) linked with commercial banks under study and its percentage on total SHGs. The data reveals that number of EWSHG linked with all public sector commercial banks has been increased from 3194113 to 3930862 during the study period resulting an overall increment of 736749 (23%) and during the same period, it has been increased from 2130404 to 2542806 resulting an overall increment of 412402 (19%) linked with public sector banks under study. Highest increment in number of EWSHG was observed in Bank of Baroda (300528, 329%) followed by Union Bank (260670, 225%) and Canara bank (65668, 29%) whereas highest reduction in number of EWSHG was observed in SBI (133758, 12%) followed by Indian Bank (80693, 24%) and Central Bank (23460, 55%) during the study period. The data further states that EWSHG linked with public sector banks under study shares more than 80% of the total SHGs throughout the study period (with minor exception) except for Central Bank where this share has been decreased from 55% to 6% during the same period.

Again, the data reveals that number of EWSHG linked with all private sector commercial banks has been increased from 407848 to 669995 during the study period resulting an overall increment of 262147 (64%) and during the same period, it has been increased from 369141 to 631463 resulting an overall increment of 262322 (71%) linked with private sector banks under study. Highest increment in number of EWSHG was observed in ICICI Bank (286347, 207%) followed by IDBI Bank (74681, 1428%) whereas highest reduction in number of EWSHG was observed in HDFC Bank (64052, 45%) followed by Yes Bank (44968, 55%) during the study period. The data further states that EWSHG linked with private sector banks under study shares more than 80% of the total SHGs throughout the study period (with minor exception) except for Federal Bank where this share has been considerably very low during the same period.

Table 3:

Amount of Savings Credited by EWSHG in Accounts Linked with Selected Commercial Banks during the Study Period
(Figures are in Rs Crore)

	31.03.2015	31.03.2016	31.03.2017	31.03.2018	31.03.2019	31.03.2020	Absolute Change	% Change
Public Sector Banks								
Andhra Bank	1376.43	1835.08	1820.04	2150.88	2104.09	2203.37	826.94	60.08
Bank of Baroda	134.41	132.65	349.35	388.19	584.6	1066.92	932.51	693.78
Canara Bank	272.44	836.97	645.43	990.62	871.32	703.52	431.08	158.23
Central Bank	71.7	74.07	87.98	93.22	57.46	71.64	-0.06	-0.08
Indian Bank	685.84	802.07	1042.19	1310.99	1374.32	1358.16	672.32	98.03
State Bank of India	1137.51	2032.4	2230.11	2304.52	2554.49	3130.13	1992.62	175.17
Union Bank	435.62	437.57	614.28	480.18	362.06	369.22	-66.4	-15.24
Total	4113.95	6150.81	6789.38	7718.6	7908.34	8902.96	4789.01	116.41
All Total	5353.82	7661.14	8418.65	9815.21	10466.34	11643.52	6289.7	117.48
%	76.84	80.29	80.65	78.64	75.56	76.46		
Private Sector Banks								
Dhana-Lakshmi Bank	0	0.11	36.64	24.31	-	27.51	27.51	-
Federal Bank	1.76	5.06	1.85	-	0.8	0.29	-1.47	-83.52
HDFC Bank	63.46	141.87	156.15	156.78	298.06	1703.47	1640.01	2584.32
IDBI Bank	18.58	24.08	21.03	28.91	86.75	75.59	57.01	306.84
ICICI Bank	166.7	68.76	242.43	174.03	360.55	232.36	65.66	39.39
Yes Bank	84.03	114.69	103.99	15.25	4.29	3.94	-80.09	-95.31
Total	334.53	354.57	562.09	399.28	750.45	2043.16	1708.63	510.76
All Total	359.86	419.56	598.09	444.96	778.41	2078.35	1718.49	477.54
%	92.96	84.51	93.98	89.73	96.41	98.31		

(Data Source: Status of Microfinance in India 2014- 15 to 2019-20)

The above table represents the amount of savings credited by EWSHG to selected commercial banks during the study period. The data reveals that total amount of savings by EWSHG to all public sector banks has been increased from Rs 5353.82 crore to Rs 11643.52 crore resulting an overall increment of Rs 6289.70 crore (117%) during the study period and the same has been increased from Rs 4113.95 crore to Rs 8902.96 crore resulting an overall increment of Rs 4789.01 crore (116%) during the same period. It clearly indicates that the overall increment in savings amount is uniform in selected public sector banks with other banks as a whole. But detailed analysis reveals that highest increment in amount of savings among selected banks under the specific category was observed in SBI (Rs 1992.62 crore, 175%) followed by Bank of Baroda (Rs 932.51 crore, 694%) and Andhra Bank (Rs 826.94 crore, 60%) during the study period on one hand and highest decline was found in Union Bank (Rs 66.40 crore, 15%) followed by Central Bank (Rs 0.06 crore, 0.08%) on other hand. The data further shows that selected public sector banks share more than 75% of the savings amount credited by EWSHG throughout the study period.

Again, the data reveals that total amount of savings by EWSHG to all public sector banks has been increased from Rs 359.86 crore to Rs 2078.35 crore resulting an overall increment of Rs 1718.49 crore (478%) during the study period and the same has been increased from Rs 334.53 crore to Rs 2043.16 crore resulting an overall increment of Rs 1708.63 crore (511%) during the same period. It clearly indicates that the overall increment in savings amount is more in selected private sector banks with other banks as a whole. The detailed analysis reveals that highest increment in amount of savings among selected banks under the specific category was observed in HDFC Bank (Rs 1640.01 crore, 2584%) followed by ICICI Bank (Rs 65.66 crore, 39%) during the study period on one hand and highest decline was found in Yes Bank (Rs 80.09 crore, 95%) followed by Federal Bank (Rs 1.47 crore, 84%) on the other hand. The data further shows that selected private sector banks have occupied lion's share of the savings amount credited by EWSHG throughout the study period.

Table 4:

Amount of Loans disbursed by Selected Commercial Banks to Exclusive Women SHGs (EWSHG) during the Study Period
(Figures are in Rs Crore)

	31.03.2015		31.03.2016		31.03.2017		31.03.2018		31.03.2019		31.03.2020		% Change in No of EW SHG	% Change in Amount of Loan Granted
	No. of EW SHG	Amount of loan Granted	No. of EW SHG	Amount of loan Granted	No. of EW SHG	Amount of loan Granted	No. of EW SHG	Amount of loan Granted	No. of EW SHG	Amount of loan Granted	No. of EW SHG	Amount of loan Granted		
Public Sector Banks														
Andhra Bank	130656	2062.92	160783	4577.23	117921	3396.7	122906	4101.54	121747	4833.37	134471	4637.14	2.92	124.79
Bank of Baroda	5426	76.94	3243	56.52	10688	195.25	34446	240.99	46572	422	11786	128.8	117.21	67.40

Canara Bank	35265	641.73	46021	513.13	36389	1192.51	74311	1962.37	89031	2958.78	91418	3159.91	159.23	392.40
Central Bank	13633	144.33	17369	174.83	21222	173.27	22993	188.64	13002	134.64	12541	164.71	-8.01	14.12
Indian Bank	36840	1245.56	46208	1718.84	132791	2572.43	95576	3194.97	98133	3834.82	102648	4004.25	178.63	221.48
State Bank of India	111079	2905.37	177744	5079.66	136344	3667.69	166613	4305.1	169649	4916.27	497064	17911.68	347.49	516.50
Union Bank	52705	819.71	61481	949.73	66408	1040.56	63436	963.84	73934	1145.82	24047	162.57	-54.37	-80.17
Total	385604	7896.56	512849	13069.94	521763	12238.41	580281	14957.45	612068	18245.7	873975	30169.06	126.65	282.05
All Total	553771	10767.07	771926	18098.03	806733	17761.85	902442	21204.3	1013691	26203.75	1391398	39684.72	151.26	268.57
%	69.63	73.34	66.44	72.22	64.68	68.90	64.30	70.54	60.38	69.63	62.81	76.02		
Private Sector Banks														
Dhana-Lakshmi Bank	0	0	2060	1.26	3322	192.49	2230	143.78	-	-	3933	245.57	-	-
Federal Bank	748	8.38	435	5.46	258	2.61	-	-	66	0.48	9	0.01	-98.80	-99.88
HDFC Bank	45927	1152.06	45021	1336.36	33777	1082.55	37578	1224.37	43824	1463.88	55051	1840.55	19.87	59.76
IDBI Bank	5880	175.82	7715	215.08	10733	303.4	73103	1695.41	73544	610.18	44317	671.49	653.69	281.92
ICICI Bank	58796	1205.52	72859	1630.89	72007	1688.05	78108	1899.75	91310	2227.59	100806	2581.87	71.45	114.17
Yes Bank	57923	1322.27	66708	1630.55	40963	1029.65	98	2.93	0	0	0	0	-100.00	100.00
Total	169274	3864.05	194798	4819.6	161060	4298.75	191117	4966.24	208744	4302.13	204116	5339.49	20.58	38.18
All Total	175588	3906.68	200598	4868.89	178144	4615.56	210800	5316.53	209524	4329.56	204727	5361.94	16.60	37.25
%	96.40	98.91	97.11	98.99	90.41	93.14	90.66	93.41	99.63	99.37	99.70	99.58		

(Data Source: Status of Microfinance in India 2014- 15 to 2019-20)

The above table represents the amount of loan disbursed by the selected commercial banks to EWSHG during the study period. The data from the above table reveals that total number of EWSHG obtained loan from the public sector commercial banks as a whole has been increased from 553771 to 1391398 resulting an overall increment of 837627 (151%) during the study period and the same obtained loan from the selected public sector commercial banks has been increased from 385604 to 873975 resulting an overall increment of 488371 (127%) during the same period. Again, the amount of loan disbursed by all public sector commercial banks to EWSHG has been increased from Rs 10767.07 crore to Rs 39684.72 crore resulting an overall increment of Rs 28917.65 crore (269%) during the same period and amount of loan disbursed by the selected public sector banks to EWSHG has been increased from Rs 7896.56 crore to Rs 30169.06 crore resulting an overall increment of Rs 22272.50 crore (282%) during the same period. Highest rate of increment in number of EWSHG obtained loan from selected public sector commercial banks has been found in SBI (347%) followed by Indian Bank (179%) and Bank of Baroda (117%) and highest rate of decline was observed in Union Bank (54%) followed by Central Bank (8%). Again, highest growth rate in loan disbursement was observed in case of SBI (516%) followed by Indian Bank (221%) and Andhra Bank (125%) and highest declining rate was observed in case of Union Bank (80%). It can be further stated that selected public sector banks share more than 60% of number of EWSHG receiving loan and more than 70% of amount of loan disbursement to the said group (with minor exception) throughout the study period.

Again, the data from the above table reveals that total number of EWSHG obtained loan from the private sector commercial banks as a whole has been increased from 175588 to 204727 resulting an overall increment of 29139 (17%) during the study period and the same obtained loan from the selected private sector commercial banks has been increased from 169274 to 204116 resulting an overall increment of 34842 (21%) during the same period. Again, the amount of loan disbursed by all private sector commercial banks to EWSHG has been increased from Rs 3906.68 crore to Rs 5361.94 crore resulting an overall increment of Rs 1455.26 crore (37%) during the same period and amount of loan disbursed by the selected public sector banks to EWSHG has been increased from Rs 3864.05 crore to Rs 5339.49 crore resulting an overall increment of Rs 1475.44 crore (38%) during the same period. Highest rate of increment in number of EWSHG obtained loan from selected private sector commercial banks and amount of loan disbursed to them has been found in IDBI Bank (654% and 282% respectively) followed by ICICI Bank (71% and 114% respectively) on one hand and on the other, highest rate of decline was observed in Yes Bank (100% in both case) followed by Federal Bank (99% in both case). Sharp increment in both number of EWSHG obtained loan and amount of loan disbursement has been observed in Dhana-Lakshmi Bank. It can be further stated that selected public sector banks share more than 90% of number of EWSHG receiving loan and amount of loan disbursement to them throughout the study period.

Table 5:
Amount of Loans Outstanding by EWSHG towards Selected Commercial Banks during the Study Period
(Figures are in Rs Crore)

	31.03.2015		31.03.2016		31.03.2017		31.03.2018		31.03.2019		31.03.2020		% Change in No. of EWSHG	% Change in amount of Loan O/S
	No. of EWSHG	Amount of Loan O/S	No. of EWSHG	Amount of Loan O/S	No. of EWSHG	Amount of Loan O/S	No. of EWSHG	Amount of Loan O/S	No. of EWSHG	Amount of Loan O/S	No. of EWSHG	Amount of Loan O/S		
Public Sector Banks														
Andhra Bank	230927	4664.41	238379	5366.46	238960	4932.17	240195	6551.3	236178	7541.86	254909	8071.37	10.39	73.04
Bank of Baroda	52613	449.05	31570	300.71	45921	369.81	69602	733.48	69008	816.02	135969	2127.77	158.43	373.84
Canara Bank	96384	2083.74	110510	2176.27	120893	2558.84	176782	3245.5	142764	3671.07	167735	4013.9	74.03	92.63
Central Bank	26403	280.80	27819	304.23	30849	335.23	26295	293.5	18457	220.37	19429	270.44	-26.41	-3.69
Indian Bank	134665	2517.62	136693	2721.31	141311	3213.2	150075	3954.81	155570	4638.71	166275	5090.58	23.47	102.20
State Bank of India	557347	7458.81	518291	8245.95	493672	8146.46	535548	9545.74	552322	11403.31	692384	22133.68	24.23	196.75
Union Bank	247981	1693.32	284428	1938.67	314601	2241.85	284990	3453.1	159537	3005.25	154274	3222.47	-37.79	90.30
Total	1346320	19147.75	1347690	21053.6	1386207	21797.56	1483487	27777.43	1333836	31296.59	1590975	44930.21	18.17	134.65
All Total	2019231	25705.99	1982118	28485.25	2049353	30421.48	2245927	38623.46	2123940	43407.86	2522889	58903.59	24.94	129.14
%	66.67	74.49	67.99	73.91	67.64	71.65	66.05	71.92	62.80	72.10	63.06	76.28		
Private Sector Banks														
Dhana-Lakshmi Bank	0	0	11065	3.94	11874	391.15	11775	425.83	-	-	11546	438.71	-	-
Federal Bank	1908	15.11	1500	10.87	1210	7.12			416	2.22	309	2.59	-83.81	-82.86
HDFC Bank	55009	946.40	61464	1206.19	26581	1106.07	57603	1183.6	64744	1404.2	81196	1784.01	47.60	88.50
IDBI Bank	8868	131.97	8977	187.88	18694	266.46	91772	2033.2	90004	1859.19	78888	1536.96	789.58	1064.63
ICICI Bank	94022	1878.67	120211	1675.43	132497	1796.86	136709	2006.41	158822	2333.81	173143	2586	84.15	37.65
Yes Bank	76113	1246.40	96550	1499.27	74523	805.69	18550	123.66	945	3.37	1	0.003	-99.99	-99.97
Total	235920	4218.55	299767	4583.58	265379	4373.35	316409	5772.7	314931	5602.79	345083	6348.273	46.27	50.48
All Total	250663	4297.84	318403	4709.62	289105	4649.98	347583	6128.41	318216	5651.93	348135	6394.16	38.89	48.78
%	94.12	98.16	94.15	97.32	91.79	94.05	91.03	94.20	98.97	99.13	99.12	99.28		

(Data Source: Status of Microfinance in India 2014- 15 to 2019-20)

The above table represents the amount of loan outstanding by EWSHG towards the selected commercial banks during the study period. The data from the above table reveals that total number of EWSHG which have outstanding loan towards the public sector commercial banks as a whole has been increased from 2019231 to 2522889 resulting an overall increment of 503658 (25%) during the study period and the same having outstanding loan towards the selected public sector commercial banks has been increased from 1346320 to 1590975 resulting an overall increment of 244655 (18%) during the same period. Again, the amount of outstanding loan by EWSHG towards all public sector commercial banks to has been increased from Rs 25705.99 crore to Rs 58903.59 crore resulting an overall increment of Rs 33197.60 crore (129%) during the same period and amount of outstanding loan by EWSHG towards the selected public sector banks has been increased from Rs 19147.75 crore to Rs 44930.21 crore resulting an overall increment of Rs 25782.46 crore (135%) during the same period. Highest rate of increment in number of EWSHG having outstanding loan towards selected public sector commercial banks has been found in Bank of Baroda (158%) followed by Canara Bank (74%) and highest rate of decline was observed in Union Bank (38%) followed by Central Bank (26%). Again, highest growth rate in amount of outstanding loan was observed in case of Bank of Baroda (374%) followed by SBI (197%) and Indian Bank (102%) and highest declining rate was observed in case of Central Bank (4%). It is observed from the above data that number of EWSHG which has outstanding loan towards selected public sector commercial banks has been increased only 18% during the study period but the amount of outstanding loan has been increased by 135% during the same period and in case of Union Bank, though the number of EWSHG under same category has been decreased at a significant rate, the amount of outstanding loan by them has been increased considerably during the same period. It can be further stated that selected public sector banks share more than 60% of number of EWSHG holding outstanding loan and more than 70% of loan amount outstanding by the said group throughout the study period. The data from the above table further reveals that total number of EWSHG which have outstanding loan towards the private sector commercial banks as a whole has been increased from 250663 to 348135 resulting an overall increment of 97472 (39%) during the study period and the same having outstanding loan towards the selected private sector commercial banks has been increased from 235920 to 345083 resulting an overall increment of 109163 (46%) during the same period. Again, the amount of outstanding loan by EWSHG towards all private sector commercial banks to has been increased from Rs 4297.84 crore to Rs 6394.16 crore resulting an overall increment of Rs 2096.32 crore (49%) during the same period and amount of outstanding loan by EWSHG towards the selected private sector banks has been increased from Rs 4218.55 crore to Rs 6348.27 crore resulting an overall increment of Rs

2129.72 crore (50%) during the same period. Highest rate of increment in number of EWSHG having outstanding loan towards selected private sector commercial banks has been found in IDBI Bank (790%) followed by ICICI Bank (84%) and highest rate of decline was observed in Yes Bank (99%) followed by Federal Bank (84%). Again, highest growth rate in amount of outstanding loan was observed in case of IDBI Bank (1065%) followed by HDFC Bank (88%) and highest declining rate was observed in case of Yes Bank (99%) followed by Federal Bank (83%). It is also observed from the above data that number of EWSHG having outstanding loan and the amount of that towards Dhana- Lakshmi Bank has been increased significantly during the study period. It can be further stated that selected private sector banks share more than 90% of number of EWSHG holding outstanding loan and amount involved on it by the said group throughout the study period.

Table 6:

Amount of NPA on Outstanding Loan by EWSHG towards Selected Commercial Banks during the Study Period
(Figures are in Rs Crore)

	31.03.2017		31.03.2018		31.03.2019		31.03.2020		Absolute Change of Gross NPA	% Change of Gross NPA
	Amount of Gross NPA	% of Gross NPA on O/S Loan	Amount of Gross NPA	% of Gross NPA on O/S Loan	Amount of Gross NPA	% of Gross NPA on O/S Loan	Amount of Gross NPA	% of Gross NPA on O/S Loan		
Public Sector Banks										
Andhra Bank	215.27	4.36	113.98	1.74	113.32	1.50	124.78	1.55	-90.49	-42.04
Bank of Baroda	4.02	1.09	29.73	4.05	39.54	4.85	119.62	5.62	115.60	2875.62
Canara Bank	163.07	6.37	163.97	5.05	199.85	5.44	274.96	6.85	111.89	68.61
Central Bank	33.95	10.13	21.37	7.28	24.85	11.28	31.39	11.61	-2.56	-7.54
Indian Bank	211.67	6.59	227.51	5.75	212.25	4.58	221.17	4.34	9.50	4.49
State Bank of India	483.35	5.93	640.25	6.71	464.12	4.07	568.66	2.57	85.31	17.65
Union Bank	106.44	4.75	282.75	8.19	72.03	2.40	68.07	2.11	-38.37	-36.05
Total	1217.77	5.59	1479.56	5.33	1125.96	3.60	1408.65	3.14	190.88	15.67
All Total	1936.52	6.37	2538.34	6.57	2149.55	4.95	2796.43	4.75	859.91	44.40
%	62.88		58.29		52.38		50.37			
Private Sector Banks										
Dhana-Lakshmi Bank	2.97	0.76	5.44	1.28	-		5.16	1.18	2.19	73.74
Federal Bank	1.01	14.19			1.05	47.30	1.89	72.97	0.88	87.13
HDFC Bank	7.79	0.70	13.22	1.12	14.22	1.01	7.93	0.44	0.14	1.80
IDBI Bank	5.74	2.15	63.23	3.11	51.83	2.79	66.11	4.30	60.37	1051.74
ICICI Bank	47.18	2.63	80.09	3.99	87.27	3.74	85.84	3.32	38.66	81.94
Yes Bank	0	0.00	16.68	13.49	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	-
Total	64.69	1.48	178.66	3.09	154.37	2.76	161.77	2.55	97.08	150.07
All Total	80.19	1.72	192.29	3.14	163.83	2.90	177.00	2.77	96.81	120.73
%	80.67		92.91		94.23		91.40			

(Data Source: Status of Microfinance in India 2014- 15 to 2019-20)

The above table represents the amount of NPA on outstanding loan accumulated by EWSHG towards selected commercial banks during the period of March' 2017 to March' 2020. Due to non-availability of data relating to NPA accumulated by EWSHG for the year 2014-15 and 2015-16, the same could not be shown here. The data reveals that total amount of NPA accumulated by EWSHG towards all public sector commercial banks has been increased from Rs 1936.52 crore to Rs 2796.43 crore, resulting an overall increment of Rs 859.91 crore during the study period, but the rate of NPA on outstanding loan has been decreased from 6.37% to 4.75% during the same period and in case of selected public sector commercial banks, the amount of NPA has been increased from Rs 1217.77 crore to Rs 1408.65 crore, resulting an overall increment of Rs 190.88 crore but the rate of NPA on outstanding loan has been declined from 5.59% to 3.14%. Highest increment in accumulation of NPA among public sector banks under study was found in Bank of Baroda (115.60 crore) followed by Canara Bank (111.89 crore) and SBI (85.31 crore) and highest decline was observed in Andhra Bank (90.49 crore) followed by Union Bank (38.37 crore) and Central Bank (2.56 crore). As on 31st March, 2020, highest rate of NPA on outstanding loan among the public sector banks under study was observed in Central Bank (11.61%) followed by Canara Bank (6.85%) and Bank of Baroda (5.62%) and lowest rate was observed in Andhra bank (1.55%) followed by Union bank (2.11%) and SBI (2.57%).

Again, the data further reveals that total amount of NPA accumulated by EWSHG towards all private sector commercial banks has been increased from Rs 80.19 crore to Rs 177 crore, resulting an overall increment of Rs 96.81 crore during the study period and the rate of NPA on outstanding loan has been increased from 1.72% to 2.77% during the same period and in case of selected private sector commercial banks, the amount of NPA has been increased from Rs 64.69 crore to Rs 161.77 crore, resulting an overall increment of Rs 97.08 crore and the rate of NPA on outstanding loan has been increased from 1.48% to 2.55%. Highest increment in accumulation of NPA among private sector banks under study was found in HDFC Bank (60.37 crore) followed by ICICI Bank (38.66 crore). As on 31st March, 2020, highest rate of NPA on outstanding loan among the private sector banks under study was observed in Federal Bank (73%) followed by IDBI Bank (4.30%) and ICICI Bank (3.32%).

MAJOR FINDINGS:

- Total number of EWSHG linked with savings account of public sector banks under study has been increased by 19% but the same has been increased by 71% in case of private sector banks under study during the assessment period and share in number of EWSHG linked with public sector banks under study has been reduced from 89.90% to 80.41% during the study period but the same remained almost uniform (95.73% to 95.10%) in case of private sector banks under study. Share of EWSHG linked with savings account is quite high among all banks under study except Central Bank and Federal Bank. Total number of EWSHG linked with selected public sector banks was 5.77 times higher than that of number of EWSHG linked with selected private sector banks at the beginning of the study period which has been reduced to 4.03 times at the end of the study period.
- The rate of increment of amount of savings by EWSHG linked with public sector banks under study were 116% and the same in case of private sector banks were 511% during the assessment period which clearly indicates that the rate of increment in amount of savings is much higher than the rate of increment in number of EWSHG linked with commercial banks under study and private sector banks have shown better performance in both cases. However, the total amount of savings of public sector banks was 12.30 times higher than that of private sector banks at the beginning of the assessment period which was reduced to 4.36 times at the end of such period. But detailed analysis reveals that out of total growth in savings amount by EWSHG linked with private sector banks of Rs 1708.63 crore during the assessment period, HDFC Bank alone has registered a growth of Rs 1640.01 crore i.e., 96% of the total increment whereas, five public sector banks namely Andhra Bank, bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, Indian Bank and SBI have registered sharp increment in amount of savings during the same time.
- The increment in amount of loan disbursement by public sector commercial banks under study towards EWSHG has been increased by Rs 22272.50 crore (282%) during the assessment period but the same in case of private sector banks under study has been increased by Rs 1475.44 crore (38%) only during the same period which clearly indicates that performance of public sector banks in this context is much better than private sector banks under study. The rate of increment in number of EWSHG obtained loan from public sector banks (127%) is much higher than private sector banks (21%) during the assessment period. Amount of loan disbursement of public sector banks were 2.04 times higher than private sector banks at the beginning of the assessment period which was increased to 5.65 times at the end of the assessment period. Another interesting point may be noted here that at the end of the assessment period, the private sector banks under study shares 99.70% of total number of EWSHG whom loan is granted by all private sector banks and shares 99.58% of total amount of loan disbursed to them. It clearly indicates that contribution of other private sector banks is very negligible regarding loan disbursement to EWSHG. Again, Yes Bank contributed nothing and Federal Bank contributed only Rs one lakh to EWSHG during 2019-20 financial year. So, in true sense, only four private sector banks namely Dhana- Lakshmi Bank, IDBI Bank, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank took real initiative to disburse loan to EWSHG during last assessment year.
- The amount of outstanding loan by EWSHG towards the public sector commercial banks under study have been increased by Rs 25782.46 crore (135%) and the same in case of private sector banks have been increased by Rs 2129.72 crore (50%) during the assessment period. Detailed analysis reveals that the rate of increment of amount of outstanding loan by EWSHG is much higher than the number of EWSHG having outstanding loan towards all public sector banks under study, but in case of private sector banks Yes Bank and Federal Bank have reduced both number of EWSHG having outstanding loan and the amount of the same during the study period. Amount of outstanding loan by EWSHG towards public sector banks under study was 4.54 times higher than that of private sector commercial banks under study at the beginning of the assessment period and the same has been increased to 7.08 times at the end of the assessment period. Again, share of number of EWSHG having outstanding loan and the amount of the same towards private sector banks under study is more than 99% of the total private sector banks operating in the market at the end of the assessment period which indicates that other private sector banks have a very negligible impact in this context. Again, share of Yes Bank and Federal Bank in both number of EWSHG having outstanding loan and amount of the same is almost nil. So, in true sense, only four banks namely Dhana- Lakshmi Bank, IDBI Bank, HDFC bank and ICICI Bank from private sector banking agencies are having significant share in this area of study.
- Amount of gross NPA accumulated by EWSHG linked with of public sector banks as a whole increased by Rs 859.91 crore (44%) whereas the same in case of public sector banks under study has been increased by Rs 190.88 crore during the assessment period. The rate of gross NPA on outstanding loan of all public sector banks has been decreased from 6.37% to 4.75% and in case of public sector banks under study has been decreased from 5.59% to 3.14% during the same period. So, the performance of the banks under study in respect of recovery of loan is much better than the other public sector banks in operation. On the other hand, the amount of gross NPA accumulated by EWSHG linked with private sector banks under study has been increased by Rs 97.08 crore and rate of gross NPA on outstanding loan has been increased from 1.48% to 2.55% during the same period. The amount of gross NPA of public sector banks was 18.82 times than that of private sector banks under study at the beginning of the assessment period which has been reduced to 8.71 times at the end of the assessment period. The detailed analysis reveals that maximum increment in amount of gross NPA took place among three public sector banks namely Bank of Baroda, Canara bank and SBI and among two private sector banks namely IDBI Bank and ICICI Bank. A negative growth in amount of gross NPA was found among three public sector banks namely Andhra Bank, Union Bank and Central Bank. Federal bank has registered the highest rate of gross NPA (73%) on 31st March' 2020 among all banks under study during the entire assessment period though the amount of gross NPA of the same was Rs 1.89 crore which is only 1.13% of the total gross NPA accumulated on that particular financial year by all the private sector banks under study.

CONCLUSION:

One of the major objectives of NABARD to launch Self-Help Group- Bank Linkage Programme (SHG-BLP) was to bring the SHGs under the umbrella of formal financial institutions and to provide them financial amenities at an affordable cost and also give financial education to them. Different financial agencies like commercial banks, cooperative banks and Regional Rural banks have extended their hand of cooperation to fulfil this objective and make this programme as the largest as well as fastest growing microfinance programme in the world. It is one of the means of women empowerment specifically of rural areas also as larger portion of the SHGs are run by women exclusively. The present study reveals that public sector banks as a whole as well as the

banks under study have shown good progress in both linking the EWSHG with savings account and disbursing loan to them. Both number and volume of EWSHG linked with SB account and granted loan have been increased quite a lot during the assessment period and rate of gross NPA on outstanding loan have also been reduced to certain extent which indicates towards good recovery mechanism of the concerned banks. But in case of private sector commercial banks, only four banks namely Dhana- Lakshmi Bank, ICICI, IDBI and HDFC Bank have shown good progress in accumulation of savings and disbursement of loan towards EWSHG among all private sector commercial banks. Availability of loan at a cheaper rate and at easy terms and conditions are the two main pre-requisites to expand and progress of any business house and definitely for SHGs also. In this context, the contribution of the public sector banks is much impressive than the private sector banks. If the private sector banks take proper initiatives to link more SHGs and disburse loan to them, then surely the rural economy will be stronger and our country will advance towards the goal of inclusive growth.

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